

Minutes of the Regional Planning Commission
Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Lake County Division of Transportation Libertyville, IL

The Regional Planning Commission met with the following in attendance:

Members Present:

Marvin Raymond – Chair
Charles J. Lucas – Vice Chair
Craig Ellison
~~Lawrence Falbe~~
~~Paul Geiselhart~~
William Holleman
Rory Klick
~~Marie Lyons~~
Jordan Madorsky
Loraine Ray
~~Bryan Rouse~~
Terry L. Weppeler
Charles Willms

Planning Staff:

Megan Krueger
Bill Hunt
David Husemoller

Others:

Mary Jane Lucas

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – the meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Raymond at 4:06 pm.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Motion: Motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2009 Regional Planning Commission meeting.
Made by: Commissioner Willms
Seconded by: Commissioner Madorsky
Action: Approved unanimously.

3.0 ADDED TO AGENDA ITEMS - None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5.0 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS - None

6.0 PLAN REVIEWS AND HEARINGS – None

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Update from Locally Grown Food Report to the PB&Z

Mr. David Husemoller stated that the PB&Z Committee agreed with the findings of the RPC, but did not feel that it was an issue that should be pursued at this time due to the costs associated with the plan. It was suggested to Mr. Husemoller by the PB&Z Committee that he refer the initiative to the Farm Bureau and the University of Illinois Extension Office to determine if these businesses would be interested in carrying it out. initiative. Mr. Husemoller contacted both offices and reported they were positive with regard to the directives, and stated that they would be in contact with each other very soon. Mr. Husemoller went on to say that as of the meeting

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date, the contact between the Farm Bureau and the Extension Office had not occurred.

Commissioner Klick entered the meeting at 4:08 pm

Mr. Husemoller went on to say that that the Planning Division was directed to review policies that support sustainability. When the PB&Z Committee decided against the County's involvement in the Local Food Policy Council, the directive was to review the Framework Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance to evaluate policies that would inhibit or support sustainable practices and local food production as they help implement the Strategy for Sustainable Lake County. The definition of sustainability from the World Commission on Environmental Development from 1987 is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The directive of the County Board is to support development in a way that does not deplete our resources; it is beneficial without being burdensome.

Mr. Bill Hunt further explained that the County Board recently adopted two plans promoting sustainable and green practices within the County. The Local Food Policy was brought to the RPC for development, and was planned as a stand-alone project that would fit into the sustainable green initiative that the County has adopted and decided to pursue. While the answers from the PB&Z Committee regarding the Local Food Policy were not what was expected, sustainable and green practices will be returned to the RPC because the Framework Plan and UDO will be evaluated at the County Board's direction to determine policies and initiatives to support these practices without added expense. Wind energy and the production of an ordinance to support wind energy is the next green practice that will be discussed with the Commission. At this time, the Commission is being given the draft model ordinance from the Wind Energy Task Force of Lake County for review and discussion.

Chairman Raymond asked Commission Klick if the College of Lake County would be a logical extension or addition to the network of entities taking responsibility for the continuation of the Local Food Policy in conjunction with the Farm Bureau and the Extension Office.

Commissioner Klick stated that the College of Lake County is establishing a sustainability center as a part of the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network. The College has hired an interim Executive Director and Sustainability Coordinator. She went on to say that she has already broached the subject of facilitating a Local Food Policy Council out of the Sustainability Center and has been given preliminary approval.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Wind Energy Task Force of Lake County Communities

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Mr. Husemoller stated that the draft ordinance was a collaborative effort of twenty municipalities to determine how to incorporate the regulatory guidelines into their own ordinances. This draft will be presented to the PB&Z Committee at its January 5, 2010 meeting. The Commission will be asked for formal recommendations at a future meeting for inclusion in the Ordinance.

Commissioner Holleman stated that the ordinance resource guide was superbly written. He explained that he has been doing his own research on the issue of wind turbines, and all of his questions and concerns were identified in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Husemoller went on to say that the State of Illinois set a goal that by the year 2025, 25% of all the energy used in the State will come from wind generation or renewable sources. He went on to explain the individual sections of the Ordinance to include the types of wind energy systems, the technical aspects of wind energy systems, and the common concerns associated with the installation and operation of wind energy systems.

One concern raised by several Commissioners was the icing of the blades of the turbines, and the ice being thrown from the blades as a result. Mr. Husemoller stated that while he has not found any documentation to substantiate these concerns, he would continue to research this issue and report back to the Commission on his findings.

The issue of sounds and vibration was also brought up by many of the Commissioners; Mr. Husemoller explained that the lower frequency sound waves are the ones that create the most disturbances. He explained that the sounds created by the blades of the turbines are similar to the sounds of the bass and vibrations from a car stereo system; when a car with such a system passes all you can hear is the bass. The frequency is so low that you can feel the vibrations of the sound waves.

Commissioner Holleman stated that he has done his own research on decibel levels, and he feels that the standards set in the draft ordinance are strict. With the decibel levels standards currently set, there should be no issues with noise and vibration from the turbines.

Mr. Bill Hunt stated that he was pleased with the discussion at this meeting because several controversial issues were mentioned. There are time constraints in place with production and adoption of this ordinance due to proposed wind farm sites that need to have regulations in place. Some of the topics are standard zoning issues, such as what type of zoning districts are going to allow what kind of apparatus. The noise, vibration, and icing issues will be restrictions that will be included in addition to all other regular zoning restrictions that any type of structure has, and will further limit to some extent where the turbines can be placed. The purpose in placing this draft with the Commission at this time is to start the process and receive feedback to improve the Ordinance.

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8.2 Annual Meeting

Mr. Hunt stated that at the January 19, 2010 meeting the Commission will continue to conduct business rather than to hold their Annual Meeting and Dinner. A restaurant in Lake Bluff has been chosen as the location for the Annual Meeting and Dinner when it is determined to be held. The restaurant, Inovasi, highlights locally grown food and organic poultry.

8.3 Meeting Schedule for 2010

Mr. Hunt explained that the meeting schedule provided to the Commissioners continues the same dates and times as currently followed. He offered that the time and date of the meeting could be changed at the request of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Klick stated that she would have some conflicts in the upcoming months due to her teaching schedule, but that she would attend as she was able.

The Commission determined that the schedule should remain the same; ie, the third Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Chairman's Report – None

9.2 Commissioners' Comments - None

9.3 Director's Report

Mr. Rovang stated that by the March meeting, the Commission should be meeting at the new facility. The PB&D Department continues to work with the Environmental Health Division and Stormwater Management Commission to integrate the permitting process.

9.4 Ex-Officio Reports – None

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the December 15, 2009, RPC Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Made by: Commissioner Madorsky
Seconded by: Commissioner Willms
Action: Approved unanimously

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Megan Krueger – Recording Secretary

Charles Willms